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Army Plan to Spy on Civilians Was Sent to 319 U.S. Officials

By BEN A. FRANKLIN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 — Representative Ogden R. Reid of Westchester disclosed today that the Army's controversial intelligence surveillance of civilian dissent and political activity was so widely known in government from 1968 on that even the military aides to all 50 state Governors were informed of its scope and operations.

Mr. Reid revealed — with grudging Army permission — the partial contents of the May 2, 1968, intelligence collection plan that started the Army on its two-year program of spying on civilian civil rights workers, anti-war activists and politically active groups and individuals.

The Representative disclosed that a total of 319 Government officials, including the leaders of 19 civilian agencies were aware of the Army's broadly stated intention to spy and gather dossiers on law-abiding civilian activity.

"The remarkable thing about it," Mr. Reid said in an interview, "is that the Army's 1968 intelligence collection plan was distributed to 319 individuals, including the adjutants general of all 50 states, and yet no one had the sense or the courage to question what they were doing."

"To me, it's almost as disturbing that so many remained silent as that this was conceived in the first place," he said.

A partial list of addressees who received the "confidential" civilian intelligence plan was the only part of a thick file of classified Army documents that Mr. Reid could persuade Army officials today to let him discuss with a ques-

tioner.

He said that the list of agencies that received the Army surveillance plan in the spring of 1968 included the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, the National Security Council, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Treasury Department, the Justice Department, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Subversive Activities Control Board and the General Services Administration, among others.

"I think you have to assume that the top people in these agencies didn't see the plan and were not aware of it," Mr. Reid said. "This whole thing burst into life with no top echelon approval that we're aware of. And that's the disturbing thing. It was started at a lower level and it could happen again. The Army was not in this alone."

Representative Reid's authorized disclosure of a paraphrase of part of an Army document came as he released a letter from Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor that acknowledged that "some reports" filed by Army intelligence agents "could have contained the names" of Senator Adlai E. Stevenson 3d, Representative Abner Mikva, Otto Kerner, the former Governor of Illinois, and other Illinois political figures.

The Resor letter, coming to public attention almost on the eve of extensive Senate hearings on charges of unconstitutional Army intelligence surveillance of political and other civilian figures, appeared to go substantially further than earlier Army statements in acknowledging the military's role in the surveillance of civilian political leaders.

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STATINTL

Secret Service Expands

When President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, the Secret Service had fewer than 400 agents and a haphazard intelligence system that focused narrowly on its primary responsibility--protecting the President and Vice President.

Secret Service now has more than 1,000 agents, a uniformed division that will soon reach 850 and a computerized intelligence section. The service is asking, for fiscal year 1972, for a budget of \$56.3 million--about 10 times the \$5.7 million it received in 1963.

The impetus for the drastic expansion arose directly from the presidential assassination.

In 1964, the Warren Commission's investigation of the assassination included a recommendation that Secret Service develop a sophisticated liaison with other federal agencies to gather information that might bear, even indirectly, on protecting the President and Vice President.

Threateners Identified

This led ultimately to the collection of threats to other public officials, including senators and congressmen. Similar intelligence comes from more than 60 Secret Service field offices, FBI, State Department, CIA, and the Capitol and Metropolitan police.

This intelligence is fed into a Secret Service computer that now holds the names of more than 100,000 persons whose words or actions have marked them for special attention as potential assassins.

During budget hearings in 1969, Secret Service officials testified they checked 6,000 names a month through the computer and expected the figure to double during the 1972 presidential election campaign.

Field Offices Emptied

In 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was murdered in Los Angeles and President Johnson ordered Secret Service protection for all major presiden-

tial and vice presidential candidates. Congress quickly rammed through enabling legislation.

Secret Service emptied its field offices. Between June and election day, agents put in a total of 270,384 overtime hours protecting the remaining 12 candidates.

Secret Service estimated a need for an additional 528 agents to handle the new duties, and Congress authorized them in three increments for fiscal years 1970, '71 and '72.

Another major expansion of Secret Service duties came last summer when Congress permitted the expansion of the 250-man White House police unit into an 850-man Executive Protective Service. This unit now is charged with protecting the White House, Executive Office Building and the 111 diplomatic missions in the Washington area.

In the last few years other changes in the law have given the Secret Service protection duties for the unmarried widow and children of past Presidents, and former Presidents and their wives.

LBJ Protected

President Nixon has also been authorized to provide Secret Service protection to visiting foreign heads of state and other "distinguished foreign visitors."

He also may order protection for Americans performing missions abroad for the government.

A team of eight agents, six special officers and a clerk are still assigned to former President Johnson. Eight agents are assigned to former President Truman.

The children of President Kennedy have eight agents to protect them until they reach age 16, but their mother, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, has no protection because she remarried.

A total of 14 agents and special officers are assigned to Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Two more Secret Service agents are stationed in Gettysburg, near the family farm.

Intelligence Network Here

This is the first of two articles. The second will appear in The Times tomorrow.

By Michael J. Satchell
A Member of The Star's Staff

Civil libertarians and wary dissenters call it snooping, spying, an unwarranted invasion of privacy and an abridgement of constitutional rights.

Law enforcement authorities and the government see it as an essential duty to protect the Republic from internal subversion.

Recent allegations that the Army has been gathering intelligence on civilians, including public officials, stirred Congress, prompted Senate subcommittee hearings planned for next month and elicited a promise by Melvin Laird, secretary of defense, of closer civilian control over military intelligence.

By one estimate the federal government has on file various kinds of sensitive information on 50 million Americans.

In Kansas City the police department, 24 separate federal agencies or departments and four military groups conduct in-

vestigative work of one form or another. Some is directly related to criminal activity, part is background and security checks on individuals applying for government jobs and some falls into the area of investigating persons who by their actions or words may be regarded as "suspect," "potential trouble makers" or simply "persons of interest."

Just which group does what, and how much, is impossible to detail. The investigative agencies here include the FBI; CIA; Secret Service; U. S. marshal's office; Treasury department; Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs; Alcohol, Tobacco and Tax unit; Civil Service commission; Labor; Agriculture, Internal Revenue, Postal and Immigration departments and the Federal Aviation administration.

Among the four military investigative agencies here is a branch of the 113th Military Intelligence group, the Army operation recently accused by Sen. Sam J. Ervin, Jr., (D-N. C.) of spying on 800 civilians and several public officials in Illinois.

Operations of Region III of the 113th here are conducted behind locked doors in a suite of offices on the 26th floor of the Federal building at 211 Walnut street. Major Earl C. Cole, Jr., recently appointed commanding officer, is in charge of an investigative operation that spans Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.

Major Cole refuses to discuss the work of the 113th here except to say that its basic responsibility is to conduct personnel security or background investigations of persons being considered for Defense department jobs.

Other investigative sources in the city report agents of the 113th maintain close working contact with the FBI and the intelligence division of the Kansas City police department. One of the Army's primary interests here—as reported elsewhere—is in militants or antiwar activists who the Army believes may pose a threat to military installations.

Another of their duties is to "determine what the social conditions are in the town and constantly evaluate situations," one high-ranking police department official says.

During this type of investigation, sources say, 113th agents here regularly "keep an eye" on peace rallies, anti-war demonstrations and similar activities.

There is close co-operation between the police department, some of the 24 federal investigation groups here and the four military operations. Information is freely exchanged between them when checking into individual records or intelligence data. Once each month the heads of the 24 federal investigation groups and the four military investigation groups gather for lunch to discuss matters of mutual interest and hear a speaker.

This month's luncheon was held on January 13 at the Gold Buffet restaurant in North Kansas City and it was the turn of Bert C. Hurn, U. S. attorney, to be host.

Intelligence gathering and storing is such a part of the government's practice, from the

government's data banks in Washington to the local police department's dossiers on individuals, that critics at best hope for some type of privacy protecting regulation.

Computerized personal dossiers are having their greatest growth in law enforcement. The argument is advanced that electronic processing of increasing amounts of intelligence information on citizens serves justice not only by catching criminals but also by warning of racial and political confrontations that may lead to violence.

The Department of Justice has four main data banks, the civil disturbance file, the organized crime intelligence center, the national crime information center and the known check passers file.

Most controversial is the civil disturbance file which contains 12,000 names with detailed information on persons connected with riots or who advocated violent action.

The Secret Service, charged with protecting the President, maintains one of the largest and most sophisticated computerized files on individuals. Critics contend the guidelines for inclusion in the files are too broad and if a person discovers he has been listed, he has no opportunity to rebut derogatory information.

The Army's intelligence files, estimated by Rep. Cornelius E. Gallagher (D-N. J.) to at one time have contained between 7 million and 10 million names of persons in virtually every political activist group in the nation, came to light a year ago.

A former Army officer, Christopher H. Pyle, disclosed the Army's role in domestic intelligence. The data banks, says the Army, have been dismantled and it has ceased to continue its watch on civilian political activity. Several lawmakers have expressed skepticism.

The Civil Service commission has a "security" file containing 10 million names and it is designed to "provide lead information relating to possible questions of suitability involving loyalty and subversive activity."

Meanwhile, more national files and new systems are being considered. The Justice department is planning a system for distribution nationwide to

courts and prosecutors a file containing the names of anyone ever charged with a drug offense, no matter how slight.

States are being urged to pool in vast permanent central computer files all their arrest and conviction data for easier access. The Transportation department has a file available for police use of the names and offense records of all 2.6 million persons nationwide who have ever had a drivers license suspended or revoked.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is considering combining with the 200,000 names in the Justice department's organized crime file its files of private businessmen and building contractors whose reputations it suspects.

Vast amounts of money are being distributed nationwide by the Justice department's Law Enforcement Assistance administration for new state and local police computer installations. The Northwest Missouri group has received funds for a data bank that will contain information from the 5-county Greater Kansas City area or possibly an 8-county area that will include three Kansas counties.

"Our purpose will not be to assemble more information but to make it more readily available," Russell Millin, chairman of the Northwest Missouri law enforcement group, says. "Very serious thought is being given to what types of data should be included."

As the whole welter of disclosures in this area comes under closer public scrutiny, critics and proponents increasingly are moved to condemn or to defend.

C. M. Kelley, chief of police, says: "The reason for surveillance and intelligence gathering is that in law enforcement there is a prerequisite of prevention and control."

"It is better to avoid an occurrence than wait for it to happen . . . If we are going to prevent riots, or bombings, then one of our main missions is to know what is going on and where potential problems are likely to be encountered."

"Gathering information might on occasion include surveillance of highly secret activities that

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The Shulman Poll on Army spying

I propose that the following poll be taken to determine the thoughts and feelings of American people and to ascertain their wishes as to which way they would like to go:

Question: In light of recent revelations concerning the Army's alleged spying operations on civilians:

A) Do you find most comfort for the future of our constitutional rights in the possibility that:

- o President Nixon authorized the operation.
- o President Nixon knew of the Army-initiated operation and approved of it.
- o President Nixon knew of the Army-initiated operation, disapproved of it, but would not act to have it discontinued.
- o President Nixon knew of the Army-initiated operation, disapproved of it, tried to have it discontinued but was overruled.

o President Nixon did not know of it.

B) Would you prefer:

o That the Army be praised for its initiative and asked to expand its operations to include telephone taps and bedroom bugs.

o That the Army continue its present spying arrangement under the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

o That the Army continue its present spying arrangement but under Defense Sec. Laird.

o That the Army discontinue its spying and transfer its files and espionage personnel to the FBI, the CIA, the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee or other similar civilian agency. ✓

o That the Army discontinue its spying, destroy its files and dismiss its espionage personnel but that a similar operation be immediately instituted by one or more of the aforementioned civilian agencies.

Chicago

ALAN ZOLA SHULMAN